### The Salt Lake Tribune.

Salt Lake Tribune Publishing Company

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### Friday, January 15, 1909.

TALDES UNIONICOUNCILD

Who said that this is a land of drought?

Boost for the State capitol! And boost, also, for Salt Lake!

There's never any delay in passing the bill for "contingent expenses"and pay.

The weather man's promise of colder veather has no terrors after this slush

Sepator Tillman's offense, what little there was of it, was only against the Senate, and that body is in a forgiving

Every time a hill is passed to protect the people in the parity and healthfulness of their foodstuffs, up go the

Governor Spry will surely need some hour to hold up his hand while bearing such a "stuff" as the cartoonist suggests for him.

A State Insurance Commissioner could be of immense service in Utah; but not if he doesn't act square, and understand his business

The sooner that intercepting sewer matter is settled, the better it will suit the people of the west side, who have

And here's our old friend, "the Arizona strip, " again! The best thing to lature at its then coming session. do is to strip off that strip from Arizona and so settle the strip for all

Oppressive and unjust railroad rates are bad, and should be resisted and shaken off. But blackmailing attempts to obtain special favors and betray the their own hypocrisy. Governor Spry un-

Govenor Spry didn't mention prohibition in his message, because he is on the inside and knows that there is no real intent on the part of "the authorities" to have prohibition.

Every suggestion in Governor Spry ? message was "of the highest importunce." But as that official's experience grows, and as he ascends higher, this dead level of approval will disappear.

The Idaho sheep men are alive to what burts them, and are not afraid to say what it is. And the National Sheepmen's association will no doubt find its voice accordingly, in the present convention.

It is astonishing to see with what apparent carnesiness some of the high priests work for "prohibition," when they know quite well that their pretense is weaker than the froth on a glass

The U. S. Senate doesn't think that attack upon him being such a failure. Which shows an astonishing sawing off of a worshipful pedestal. Time wasbut we forbear.

A suggestion to the Legislature: Why not pass a law making wife desertion a crime, as other States have done? Is the failure to do so in Utah the result of tremors in the bones of much married reprobates in high places?

Isn't it about time for the church organ to put up another "holler" against any mention of the Mountain Meadows massacre, with another (already too much) protest that the Mor-

heir traditional enemies. Perhaps a brief review of the facts and of recent aggressions would enlighten minds in darkness.

#### WHY THE SILENCE.

The church organ, in a column review of the Governor's message, mostly favorable, closes its comments thereon by saving: "We regret that the present popular demand for temperance legislation and Sunday closing has found no place in the first message of the Governor.

No doubt the omission thus deplored by the News was because the Governor fully understood that the present agitation by certain leading fanatics of the Mormon church is insincere. Doubtless he understands fully that there is no real intention to pass a prohibition law. It is doubtful if he believes that

even a local option law will be passed. While it is not a matter of any very great importance in the long run, or upon what the ecclesiasts will compel the Legislature to do, it is just as well to bear in mind the fact that the Mormon conference so often quoted in this connection did not declare for prohibition. It did declare for local op-The talk of Apostle Grant and other zealots of the church at the present time in spreading the pretense that the church is for prohibition is merely to put the church nominally in accord with the prohibition sentiment that is sweeping over the country, while at the same time the church leaders have no idea in the world, and never have had the least intention, of requiring the enactment of a prohibitory law.

They may require the enactment of a local option law. But if they that will leave matters practically as they are in this State now Under local option undoubtedly there would be regulated liquor selling in Salt Lake City, in Ogden, in Park City, Bingham, and generally throughout the State in the co-operative drug stores with their branches either of the Zion's o-operative Mercantile Institution of this city or the Smoot Drug Company n Provo

We regard it as the wildest sort of dreaming to imagine for one moment that the prohibition of liquor selling could be enacted in this State as long is the Z. C. M. I. drug store finds such mmense profits in its liquor trade, buying, as it does, and shipping in here regular business. Likewise, the Smoot iquor from the drug department in bottles, serves drinks precisely as a sa loon does, on the order of the customers who are waiting then and there to drink

With such interests as these at the back of liquor selling in Utah, the idea that the liquor traffic in this State is Smith in his official dismissal of the church wouldn't have it, for an instant.

Then, again, there is not the least desire shown on the part of the church politicians to further the idea of any liquor legislation at all. They know precisely as the public generally knows and as Councilman Stewart has expressed it, that the liquor interests bought immunity from this sort of legislation by their support of the church "Republican" ticket at the recent election; this support being by the contribution of large sums of money to the church "Republican" campaign fund and by the throwing of thousands of votes to the nominees of that partyall this in pursuance of a compact that a right to be suited in this matter. all this in pursuance of a compact that the liquor interests were not to be afflictively meddled with by the Legis-

And so we regard the talk of the News and of certain of the church zealots who are feeding its fires, as trumpery humbug, meaning nothing in particular; and believe that those who are doing this agitation on the Mormon church side, are doing it conscious of doubtedly left out all mention of the liquor legislation because he understood that the agreement to let the liquor men alone was for value received, that no destructive liquor legislation is to be enacted at the present session of the Legislature.

### THE "ARIZONA STRIP" AGAIN.

We notice that the old idea of getting for Utah that region of Arizona plateau, is revived. House joint memorial No. 1 petitions Congress to deour southern neighbor and give it to

In years gone by, The Tribune has this matter. The region referred to lies tically inaccessible from the Arizona line of the canyon there is no opporresult is that the region referred to, to members of their flock in any civil south of the Utah State line and north position. of the great bend of the Colorado, is practically a no-man's land, a resort of refugees, and while, in general, order when The Tribune attacks the Moris pretty well preserved there, the inhabitants are few, and the opportuni- denies that these Mormon leaders are ties for settlement are scarce indeed. the church when they act in politics Still, there are great possibilities in and in civil affairs. It claims that the mon church had nothing to do with it? that plateau, and some day it will be case is the same as though one should a rich country; but it will never be of attack the head of a family, that when

to deliver themselves into the hands of there have very little to do with Arizona, their trade and social relations

being wholly with Utah. On the other hand, this "strip" is immediately and easily accessible from this side, and is, in fact, part of the Utah land system, for it is as accessible to us as it is inaccessible to Arithe Colorado river on a map in connection with the southern boundary of I'tab can see at once just what is meant by the Arizona "strip," and what it is that would be detached from Arizona and added to Utah in case the House memorial is complied with.

Some years ago this matter was reived in specific form, and a committee of the Utah Legislature visited the Arizona Legislature with a view of having the assent of the Arizonans to the desire of Utah to acquire this strip." Arizona's reply was a contemptuous refusal even to consider the proposition. And yet the proposition is a correct and just one. That "strip" unquestionably should form a part of Utah, because from Utah only can it be governed and administered effectively. We trust that the House memorial will pass and that the reasons which can fairly be urged in favor of it will so appeal to Congress as to obtain consent to the transfer. It will perhaps be easier to effect this at the present time than formerly, because it is altogether likely that within the next few years Arizona will be admitted as a State in the Union, and in the adjustment of boundaries this matter can fairly come up and the explanations made as to why the region north of the Colorado river should be annexed to Utah.

#### IT FALLS DOWN ONCE MORE.

The church organ persists in its exploded fallacy with respect to the governing power of the priesthood in political and civil affairs. It claims that in order to exercise their rights as citizens they must control, and it asks whether, in place of our resistance to the control of the priesthood, "Would it not be more to the point to prove by competent authority that certain ecelesiastical positions, as The Tribune maintains, disfranchise some citizens?' Well, we should say not. We have not been saying anything whatever about disfranchising anybody. What we complain of is that the high priests and officials of the Mormon church use by the carload all kinds of liquor and their ecclesiastical positions as such, is proper to say the church is attacked selling it as a matter of course in its and their authority as ecclesiasts, to control their people in their polities, drug store in Provo, besides selling and they use that same ecclesinstical authority to control members of their cet who are in official positions to the advantage of the church rulers and the glory of the hierarchy.

That the Mormon ecclesiasts do this is beyond the slightest question. We ited the fact of President Joseph I' to be forbidden in preposterous. The October conference, giving voice to his approval of the present Congressional delegation. The News denies that he expressed any desire for the re-election of that delegation. But that, of course, is a mere quibble. When the president of the Mornion church approves of ar official that means that he is to be re tained in office. To put any other con struction upon it is the crassest stupid ity. We cited also the acts of the presidents of stakes in this county during the recent campaign, where, with out the least question, they used their church positions to coerce their followers in their voting, and openly charged that Mormon voters who refused to obey their "counsel" as to voting

the Governor and Legislature, and asks whether in making that address, Mr. Short was interfering in politics. A good many maintain that whenever a minister does this he interferes in politics. That, however, is not our position. If the Mormon ecclesiasts had no more authority over the Governor and Legislature and exercised no more control over them than the Rev. F. B. Short does, then indeed would the political millennium have arrived for Utah. The Governor and Legislature of Utah will take their official action without the slightest reference to anything that Mr. Short may say to them. But can any one for one moment imagine the Governor and Legislature acting independent of, or contrary to, the counsel of the first presidency of the sometimes known as the \* Kaibab Mormon church? Well, if any one has such a notion as that he must be dense indeed, if he knows anything about tach that portion of Arizona from Utah conditions. The Descret News has constantly brought forward in this matter the reference of the ministers of the gospel throughout the country to devoted a good deal of attention to public affairs as having something to do with the domination of the north of the Colorado river and is prac- Mormon church ceclesiasts in politics. As we have pointed out repeatedly, howside. It is, of course, the next thing ever, there is not the slightest connecto impossible to cross the Grand Canyon tion between the two instances. The of the Colorado at any portion of its Mormon church authorities speak to extent. There is a ferry across the their flocks, whether the individuals Colorado just above the point where it of that flock are in official position The U. S. Senate doesn't think that caters the great canyon, known from or not, as the very voice of God, and Mr. Tillman needs any vindication, this of old as Lee's ferry. There is an expect their counsel to be obeyed asother crossing farther down, below the cordingly. And the members of the mouth of the canyon. In all that inter- Mormon church, whether in official pomediate distance, covering the whole sition or otherwise, recognize this autherity of the Mormon ecclesiasts, contunity to cross. From the Arizona side cede the divinity of their counsel, and the approach to each of the ferry cross- bow down to it. No other ministers ings indicated is long and toilsome. The stand in this relation to their flock, or

Finally, the Descret News denies that it is inconsistent where it claims that mon leaders it attacks the church, but A tool of the priestly civic officials much use to Arizona, because of its in- one makes such an attack the family is wonders why the mining men refuse accessibility and because the people attacked. This, however, is a mere spe-

cial pleading, and is not in the least ly and justly without in the least implicating the family. That is precisely what we are doing with respect to the and public vice. It will be remembered lawless leaders of the Mormon church. zona. Any one tracing the course of We attack the leaders of that church testimony declared that he was living for their crimes, their abuses, their robberies, their usurpations, and their selfish prostitution of their positions to their own personal reign, comfort, and twelve apostles made the same declaraadvantage. This, however, is by no are robbed and abused for the comfort and selfish use of the robbers.

As a matter of fact, the Mormon church is its general authorities to all their crimes. intents and purposes, with the lesser ecclesiasts and the masses practically left out. This is the fact, and on this claims that the church is attacked when we attack the lawless and disreputable doings of the church leaders; the church organization itself confesses this when it claims that the church is attacked when we attack its leaders. And in reply, we say, conversely, that the church usurps anthority and dominance in politics and civil affairs when its leaders do so. To the case of Joseph F. Smith: He adthat he is a defier of God and a defier fore, a renegade in religion, and in his civic capacity he is a traitor to the State. This the church organ claims to be an attack upon the Mormon devils coming from other States under church. But do we attack anybody else | the idea that they could live in polygadoes not follow that the Mormon masses | the Tanners and others are as guilty are guilty of anything of this kind. As of the crime of polygamy as were Cam-

guilty. The News is guilty of its usual folly of perversions of fact and lack of logic in applying the facts to the case under discussion. When the Descret News will show some reason why the church leaders should be allowed to continue to live lives of crime and be protected in so living; when it will show that it when the leaders are attacked, but improper to say the church does the things which the leaders do, then it will be on some basis whereby it can proceed with a logical and fair argument that will have some relation to the case:

### THE SUPREMACY OF LAW.

A mouthpiece of the priesthood, peaking of what it calls the "stockade builders," uses this unqualified language: "It is time to show themand all whom it may concern-that in and special favors to none Utah the law is supreme, and the courts are not to be trifled with,"

wish in our hearts that it could be true necessarily true. As a matter of fact, and true always, everywhere, and to be the head of the family may deserve to applied to every person and not alone be attacked, and may be attacked fair- as to a few wretched creatures who are supposed to be in the open preparation to lead lives of scandalous immorality that Joseph F. Smith in his Washington a life in defiance of the law, and that he intended to continue so to live President Francis M. Lyman of the tion. If, now, it is unqualifiedly true means attacking the Mormon church that the law is to be supreme in Utah nor the dupes of those ecclesiasts who and "the courts are not to be trifled with," then we should reasonably expect that the open law-defiers will be brought to book and made to answer for During last fall's political campaign

in Utah a great deal was made of a reporter's inaccurate version of a speech theory alone is it that the Deseret News | made by Senator Cannon in the theater wherein he stated in effect that with the triumph of American principles in Utah the hierarchic law-breakers would have to quit their law-breaking or go to jail or into banishment. That, how ever, is nothing compared with the threat made now by a mouthpiece of the priesthood, that right here and now "the law is supreme and the courts are not to be triffed with." If this means make the matter plain, let us instance anything at all, as we could fervently hope it does, it must mean that the era mitted in his testimony in the Smoot of defiance of law is about to pass away. case that he was living and intended to It must mean that the manifesto and continue to live a life defiant of the the laws against polygamy, unlawful laws of God and of man. This shows cohabitation, adultery, seduction, etc., are to be strictly and impartially enof the laws of the land. He is, there- forced, without regard to who is hit or who is put in jail. Heretofore we have seen the shameful

than Joseph F. Smith when we set mous relations in Utah unmolested, railforth his testimony and the inevitable roaded to jail without mercy, conscience, effect of it, describing it in words that or consideration of others like guilty. alone fit the case? By no means. It It is an open and notorious fact that a matter of fact, they are not thus eron and Plant, and yet Cameron and Plant were sent to the State prison for their crime, and the Tanners and others equally guilty strut the streets and pose as among our pieus and foremost cit izens. Under the rule that "the law is supreme and the courts are not to be trifled with" we should expect to see no discrimination of this kind any more to the represel of Utah and the utter shame of the ecclesiastically protected law-breakers.

spectacle in Utah of two poor, ignorant

Give us some more on the point that the law is supreme and that the courts are not to be triffed with," and that the law is to be enforced justly, impartially, and rigorously, without regard to person or position. That is good dectrine for Utah; it is the doc trine The Tribune has been urging for many years; it is the doctrine that it insists upon for the so-called "stockade builders," as well as for the transgressors in high church position. Let us have a square deal, equal justice to all,

Much good is expected to flow from This will be had news for the lawless the Good Roads convention; and The hierarchy of Utah-if only they can be Tribune will welcome all the good remade to believe that it is true. We sults with the most earnest approval.

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lar 35c for 20c.
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